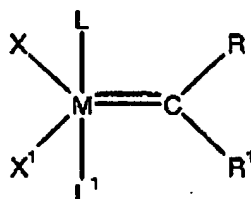


Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A polymer composite consisting of at least one, optionally hydrogenated, nitrile rubber polymer having a Mooney viscosity (ML 1+4 @ 100°C) in the range of from 50-30 and a polydispersity index of less than 2.7, at least one filler and optionally at least one cross-linking agent,

wherein the optionally hydrogenated, nitrile rubber polymer is prepared by reacting a nitrile polymer in the presence of one or more compounds of the general formulas I, II, III or IV



Formula I

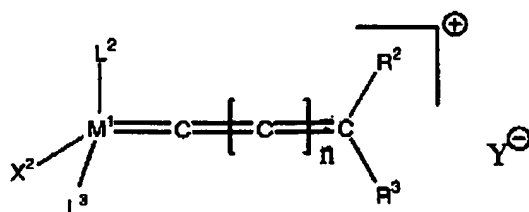
wherein:

M is Os or Ru,

R and R' are, independently, hydrogen or a hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₂₀ alkynyl, C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, aryl, C₁-C₂₀ carboxylate, C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy, C₂-C₂₀ alkenyloxy, C₂-C₂₀ alkynyloxy, aryloxy, C₂-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₂₀ alkylthio, C₁-C₂₀ alkylsulfonyl and C₁-C₂₀ alkylsulfinyl,

X and X' are independently any anionic ligand, and

L and L' are independently any neutral ligand, ~~such as phosphines, amines, thioethers or imidazolidinyldene (which are especially preferred)~~ or any neutral carbene, optionally, L and L' can be linked to one another to form a bidentate neutral ligand;



Formula II

wherein:

M^1 is Os or Ru;

R^2 and R^3 are, independently, hydrogen or a hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{20} alkynyl, C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_1 - C_{20} carboxylate, C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy, C_2 - C_{20} alkenyloxy, C_2 - C_{20} alkynyloxy, aryloxy, C_2 - C_{20} alkoxy carbonyl, C_1 - C_{20} alkylthio, C_1 - C_{20} alkylsulfonyl and C_1 - C_{20} alkylsulfinyl,

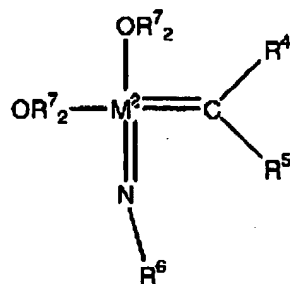
X^2 is ~~a anionic~~ an anionic ligand, and

L^2 is a neutral π -bonded ligand, independent of whether ~~they are~~ it is mono- or polycyclic,

L^3 is a ligand selected from the group consisting of phosphines, sulfonated phosphines, fluorinated phosphines, functionalized phosphines bearing up to three aminoalkyl-, ammoniumalkyl-, alkoxyalkyl-, alkoxycarbonylalkyl-, hydroxycarbonylalkyl-, hydroxyalkyl- or ketoalkyl- groups, phosphites, phosphinites, phosphonites, phosphinamines, arsines, stibenes, ethers, amines, amides, imines, sulfoxides, thioethers and pyridines,

Y- is a non-coordinating anion,

n is an integer in the range of from 0 to 5;

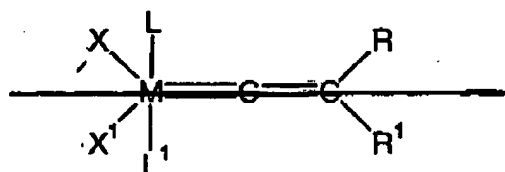


Formula III

wherein

M^2 is Mo or W,

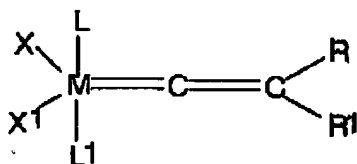
R^4 and R^5 are, independently, hydrogen or a hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{20} alkynyl, C_1 - C_{20} alkyl,



Formula VI

aryl, C_1 - C_{20} carboxylate, C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy, C_2 - C_{20} alkenyloxy, C_2 - C_{20} alkynyloxy, aryloxy, C_2 - C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_{20} alkylthio, C_1 - C_{20} alkylsulfonyl and C_1 - C_{20} alkylsulfinyl,

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from any unsubstituted or halo-substituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl groups or silicon-containing analogs thereof, wherein:



Formula IV

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wherein:

M is Os or Ru,

R and R¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted alkyl,

X and X¹ are independently any anionic ligand, and

L and L¹ are independently any neutral ligand, ~~such as phosphines, amines, thioethers or imidazolidinylidene (which are especially preferred)~~ or any neutral carbene, optionally, L and L¹ can be linked to one another to form a bidentate neutral ligand.

2. (Previously Presented) The polymer composite according to Claim 1 wherein the Mooney viscosity (ML 1+4 @ 100°C) is in the range of from 45-30.

3. (Previously Presented) The polymer composite according to Claim 1 wherein the Mooney viscosity (ML 1+4 @ 100°C) is in the range of from 40-30.

4. (Currently Amended) The polymer composite according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer composite comprises the optional cross-linking agent is selected from a peroxide or sulfur curing system.

5. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing the polymer composite according Claim 1 comprising mixing at least one, optionally hydrogenated, nitrile rubber polymer having a Mooney viscosity (ML 1+4 @ 100°C) in the range of from 50-30 and a polydispersity index of less than 2.7, at least one filler and optionally at least one cross-linking agent.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for the manufacture of a shaped article comprising the step of injection molding a polymer composite according to Claim 1, comprising at least one, optionally hydrogenated, nitrile rubber polymer having a

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Mooney viscosity (ML 1+4 @ 100°C) in the range of from 50-30 and a polydispersity index of less than 2.7, at least one filler and at least one cross-linking agent.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the shaped article is a seal, a hose, a bearing pad, a stator, a well head seal, a valve plate, a cable sheathing, a wheel roller, a belt, in place gaskets or a pipe seal.